



Spectators cheer during the St. Patrick's Day parade, Sunday, March 15, 2015, in Boston's South Boston neighborhood. Sunday's parade through the traditionally Irish-American enclave was shorter than years past: So much snow remains piled on sidewalks after the brutal winter that the city has had to cut the route in half. Associated Press

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Obama administration: 16.4M have gained health insurance

**RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
JULIE PACE**

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 16 million Americans have gained coverage since President Barack Obama's health care law took effect five years ago, the administration said Monday. But an independent expert who used some of the same underlying data had the much lower estimate of 9.7 million. The Department of Health and Human Services estimated that 16.4 million adults have gained health insurance since the law's major coverage provisions began taking effect in 2010. At the same time, data from a large daily survey called the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index show that there are 9.7 million fewer uninsured adults now compared with the first part of 2010. There seems to be no dispute that Obama's law has significantly reduced the number of uninsured Americans. The question is, by how much? It will take time for authoritative statistics to emerge, particularly when the government and outside experts are using different estimating methods. The HHS estimate comes as the administration prepares to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the law's signing on Mar. 23, 2010. The Affordable Care Act

has been politically divisive from the start. Democrats hailed it as the culmination of decades of effort to guarantee health coverage for all Americans, including people with health problems who until then could have been turned away by insurance companies. Republicans called it government overreach, and haven't stopped trying to repeal or roll back what they dismiss as "Obamacare." HHS Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell said it's brought about "the largest reduction in the uninsured in four decades." The health care law offers subsidized private coverage for people who don't have health insurance on the job, along with an expanded Medicaid program that a majority of states have accepted. According to the HHS estimate, 14.1 million adults got their insurance after the law's big expansion began at the end of 2013. HHS said it used Gallup-Healthways data to arrive at that figure. Even before that, another 2.3 million people had gained coverage under a provision that lets young adults stay on a parent's plan until age 26, the administration said. HHS reached that estimate using data from a different source, a government survey. The administration says that means 16.4 million people gained coverage since



In this Nov. 12, 2014 file photo, Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Obama's law took effect. Gallup's lower number was computed in a different way. Dan Witters, research director for the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, said his survey shows the uninsured rate declined from 16.3 percent in early 2010 to 12.3 percent this year among adults 18-64. That translates to about 9.7 million fewer uninsured adults over that time period. Witters said he has not had time to review the government's methodology. But he noted that the uninsured rate actually went up after 2010 for older adults who would not have benefited

from expanded parental coverage. He added he would want to know more about how HHS combined its two separate estimates to arrive at the figure of 16.4 million gaining coverage. HHS official Richard Frank, whose office produced the government report, said the two numbers "can be added together as coverage gains associated with our policy." But asked if the overall figure represents a net reduction in the US uninsured rate in the five years since the law's passage, Frank responded "that is not precisely what they represent." He said they are "two sets

of net reductions, but they are slightly separate in the analysis." The biggest question hanging over the law now is a Supreme Court case in which opponents argue that subsidies are illegal in most states. They contend that the exact wording of the law only allows subsidized coverage in states that have set up their own insurance markets, and most have not done so, relying instead on the federal marketplace. The administration counters that the context of the law makes it clear the purpose was to expand coverage in every state. □

Associated Press



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First lady won't avoid Cambodia human rights concerns



In this Feb. 26, 2015 file photo, First lady Michelle Obama speaks in Washington.

Associated Press

DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Michelle Obama won't avoid Cambodia's human rights record when she visits the southeast Asian nation this week, her final stop on a two-country trip to promote a new U.S. initiative to help millions of girls worldwide attend and complete school, the White House said Monday. The first lady, who is traveling without the president, is scheduled to arrive in Japan, her first stop, on Wednesday. On Friday, she heads to Cambodia. While the purpose of the

five-day trip, from March 18-22, is to promote the "Let Girls Learn" initiative she and the president announced this month, Mrs. Obama will discuss the need for an open and inclusive political system in Cambodia and highlight basic values and principles that are important to the U.S., said Evan Medeiros, senior director for Asian affairs at the National Security Council.

Mrs. Obama, who will become the first sitting U.S. first lady to visit Cambodia, will also address these issues during a speech there, Medeiros said.

The Cambodian government has been led since 1985 by Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has a reputation for ruthlessness and a low tolerance for opposition. The country also has child prostitution and human trafficking problems, two issues that keep girls from attending school. President Barack Obama was the first U.S. president to visit Cambodia in late 2012, but White House officials insisted then that Obama only visited because Cambodia was the host for two annual regional summits he has been attending as part of his focus on Asia. He appeared visibly unhappy during the brief stop.

Tina Tchen, the first lady's chief of staff, said on the call that Cambodia has done a lot of work on the girls' education issue and that Mrs. Obama would get to learn about community-based solutions to the problem. Cambodia is one of 11 countries participat-

ing in part of the "Let Girls Learn" initiative that is being run by the Peace Corps, employing thousands of its volunteers around the world, and being overseen by Mrs. Obama.

The trip marks Mrs. Obama's first visit to Japan as first lady.

In Tokyo, she is scheduled to meet separately with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife, Akie. Obama made a state visit to Japan last year, and Abe is expected to make a reciprocal visit soon.

Mrs. Obama will also speak about the countries' mutual interest in international girls' education and announce a partnership between the Peace Corps and Japan's equivalent. The two first ladies will also meet with Japanese university students. Before leaving Japan, Mrs. Obama will stop in Kyoto to tour the Kiyomizu-Dera Buddhist Temple and the Fushimi Inari Shinto Shrine.

In Siem Reap, Cambodia, where Mrs. Obama is to arrive on Friday, she and her counterpart, Bun Rany, will meet with high school students participating in community-led education programs. Mrs. Obama will also meet with Peace Corps volunteers, and hold a round-table discussion with those volunteers, plus community and civic leaders who are working on projects to support girls' education in Cambodia. Before departing for Washington, Mrs. Obama plans to visit Angkor Wat, the ancient temple complex on UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites. □



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Hillary Clinton gets Irish honor, and a warm embrace

Amy Chozick

Hillary Rodham Clinton bowed her head in prayer before she was honored at the Irish America Hall of Fame luncheon on Monday in Manhattan. Credit Ruth Fremson/The New York Times

Updated, 3:01 p.m. | On the eve of St. Patrick's Day, Hillary Rodham Clinton was lucky enough to bask in the approval of a crowd of Irish and Irish-American power brokers who gathered in Manhattan for her induction into the Irish America Hall of Fame.

She has faced tough questions in recent days about email accounts and foreign donations, but Mrs. Clinton received the warmest of greetings on Monday, with praise for her role in the Northern Ireland peace process both as first lady



Hillary Rodham Clinton bowed her head in prayer before she was honored at the Irish America Hall of Fame luncheon on Monday in Manhattan. Credit Ruth Fremson/The New York Times

and as secretary of state. America magazine and "She's like family," said Niall co-founder of the hall of O'Dowd, publisher of Irish fame, which each year in-

ducts honorees at a St. Patrick's-themed luncheon.

Mr. O'Dowd joked about the level of interest in this year's luncheon compared with last year, when the group honored Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor.

"I'll give a 48-minute speech, and then Hillary will speak for 30 seconds,"

he said.

Mrs. Clinton spoke about her work with women in Belfast when her husband worked on the 1998 Good Friday agreement, a major step toward ending the long sectarian conflict known as the Troubles.

"I want to accept this honor on behalf of all the remarkable women I met and admired," she said, flanked by Irish and American flags in a packed ballroom at the Essex House, where many in the crowd sipped pints of Guinness, one of the event's sponsors.

In addition to her induction, Mrs. Clinton was given a St. Patrick's Day sweater for her 6-month-old granddaughter, Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky. Mrs. Clinton, wearing green, sat at the same table as Gerry Adams, the longtime leader of Sinn Fein.

Although her ancestry revealed Welsh and French-Canadian roots, Mrs. Clinton said she was certain she had some Irish in her.

"I may have to do one of those DNA tests to find out for sure," she said. □

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Suspect charged in Ferguson police attack appears in court

ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

Associated Press

CLAYTON, Missouri (AP)

— The man accused of shooting two police officers last week in Ferguson appeared in court Monday, a day after his arrest on charges that he fired on the men during a late-night protest.

Jeffrey Williams, 20, is accused of shooting the two officers Thursday outside Ferguson's police station, which has been the scene of protests since last summer's fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown. The shooting happened as a demonstration outside the police department began to break up. The protest followed the resignation of city Police Chief Tom Jackson in the wake of a Justice Department report that found widespread racial bias in the city's police practices.

Williams did not make any statements during the brief hearing. St. Louis television station KTVI said a judge read the charges — felony assault, armed criminal action and a weapons offense. His next appearance was set for March 31.

Defense attorney Jerry Christmas suggested that St. Louis County police may have used excessive force when arresting Williams, saying his client had bruises on his back, shoulders and face and a knot on his head.

Police spokesman Brian



Pro-police demonstrators protest outside the Ferguson Police Department Sunday, March 15, 2015, in Ferguson, Mo.

Schellman called the lawyer's allegations "completely false," adding that Williams was seen by a nurse when booked into the county jail, standard procedure for all incoming inmates.

"The nurse released Williams as fit for confinement," he said.

Christmas did not appear at Williams' brief hearing and said he first spoke with his client late Monday afternoon.

Williams told investigators he was not targeting law enforcement and had been aiming instead at someone with whom he was in a dispute, authorities said.

"We're not sure we completely buy that part of it," St. Louis County Prosecutor

Robert McCulloch said.

Williams used a handgun that matches the shell casings at the scene, McCulloch said. He was being held on \$300,000 bond.

Ferguson activist Derrick Robinson said Sunday that Williams told him during a jail visit that he had been robbed earlier on the day of the shooting and returned to the protest zone to retaliate. On Monday, Robinson referred inquiries to Williams' lawyer, who did not immediately respond to an interview request.

Protesters did not recognize Williams as one of their own, and he was not well known among neighbors.

Brittany Ferrell, 26, a protest leader with the group Millennial Activists United, said no one in her group knew

Williams, and they checked with other frequent protesters, who also had not heard of him.

John Gaskin, a St. Louis NAACP leader, said of Williams, "I don't know him. I've never seen him."

On Monday, no one answered the door of the north St. Louis County home Williams listed as his address on court records, and several neighbors said Monday they did not know him. The home is about 5 miles (8 kilometers) northeast of the police department.

According to 2014 county court records, Williams lived in the nearby community of Jennings, parts of which border Ferguson. But no one answered the door at that home either.

Online state court records

show a man by the name of Jeffrey Williams at the address police provided Sunday was charged in 2013 with receiving stolen property and fraudulent use of a credit/debit device.

St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar has called the shooting "an ambush" and said the two officers easily could have been killed.

A 41-year-old St. Louis County officer was shot in the right shoulder, the bullet exiting through his back. A 32-year-old officer from Webster Groves was wearing a riot helmet with the face shield up. He was shot in the right cheek, just below the eye, and the bullet lodged behind his ear.

The officers were released from the hospital hours after the attack.

The Ferguson Police Department has been a national focal point since Brown, who was black and unarmed, was killed by police officer Darren Wilson. A grand jury led by McCulloch declined to indict Wilson in November, and Wilson was cleared of civil rights charges by a Justice Department report released March 4. Wilson resigned in November.

A separate Justice Department report found widespread racial bias in the city's policing and in a municipal court system driven by profit extracted from mostly black and low-income residents. □



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California man pleads not guilty to terrorism charges

AMY TAXIN

Associated Press

SANTA ANA, California (AP)

— A 21-year-old California man originally charged with lying on a passport application so he could travel to Syria pleaded not guilty Monday in federal court to new charges alleging he also tried to provide support to the Islamic State terror organization.

Adam Dandach entered the plea during a brief hearing in U.S. District Court in Santa Ana less than two weeks after federal prosecutors enhanced their case against him.

"Mr. Dandach posed a threat to national security by expressing sympathy with, and a willingness to join" Islamic State forces, said Thom Mrozek, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles.

Dandach's attorney, Pal

Lengyel-Leahu, said his client grew up "like every American kid" and was a community college student and deeply religious. He was traveling on his own to help widows and orphans,

Lengyel-Leahu said, but he could not specify where Dandach would provide the assistance.

"He's always said the same thing, he was going over there to help," Lengyel-Leahu told reporters after the hearing.

Dandach earlier pleaded not guilty to passport fraud. Dandach was stopped in July in the Orange County airport while trying to board a flight to Turkey with an expedited replacement passport he got after he said he accidentally threw away his old one.

Authorities said his mother had confiscated his passport when she heard about

his plan to go overseas.

The FBI said Dandach told agents he planned to pledge allegiance and offer to help the Islamic State in Syria and believed the killings of American soldiers were justified.

When told he could face criminal charges for lying

to get an expedited passport, Dandach said he was more disappointed about not going to Syria than about getting in trouble with the law, according to court papers.

A June 16 trial date has been set for Dandach, who is a resident of Orange and

may also be known as Fadi Fadi Dandach. He remains in custody.

If convicted, Dandach could face up to 15 years in federal prison on the terrorism charge, and up to 25 years on each of the other counts, federal authorities said. □

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Millionaire Robert Durst faces murder charge after broadcast

JANET MCCONNAUGHEY
BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Robert Durst couldn't explain away the similarities between his handwriting and a letter he said "only the killer could have written" that alerted police to his friend's shooting 15 years ago.

Confronted with new evidence by the makers of a documentary about his life, the troubled millionaire blinked, burped oddly, pulled his ear and briefly put his head in his hands before denying he was the killer.

Then he stepped away from the tense interview and went to the bathroom, still wearing the live microphone that recorded what



Robert Durst is escorted from Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, Monday, March 16, 2015, in New Orleans.

Associated Press

he said next.

"There it is. You're caught!"

Durst whispered to himself

before running the tap water.

"What the hell did I do?"

Killed them all, of course."

That moment didn't just make for a captivating finale to a six-part documentary on the eccentric life of an heir to a New York real estate fortune.

It also may have given police and prosecutors the evidence they needed to close the long-cold case of a mobster's daughter. Susan Berman was felled by a bullet to the back of her head as investigators prepared to find out what she knew about the disappearance of Durst's wife in 1982. Los Angeles prosecutors filed a first-degree charge against Durst on Monday that could trigger the death penalty.

In Louisiana, Durst was re-booked on charges of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of a weapon with a controlled dangerous substance — a small amount of marijuana. Authorities didn't immediately know whether prosecutors would try to keep Durst in Louisiana on those charges before he is sent to Los Angeles.

The charges came after two years of investigation and allege he lay in wait with a gun and murdered a witness, special circumstances that could carry a death sentence if prosecutors decide later to pursue it.

Durst, 71, who was arrested at a New Orleans hotel on the eve of Sunday's final episode, agreed Monday to face trial for the murder of Berman, who had vouched for him in public after his wife vanished.

The makers of "The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst" said Durst had waved off his lawyer's advice to stay quiet before granting them two lengthy interviews. They also say he knew he was being record-

ed throughout, and that they shared any evidence they gathered with police long before broadcasting the film on HBO.

The documentary showed filmmaker Andrew Jarecki confronting Durst with a copy of an anonymous letter that alerted Beverly Hills police to go look for a "cadaver" at Berman's address.

Durst offered that whoever sent it was "taking a big risk. You're sending a letter to police that only the killer could have written."

Then, in the final episode, Jarecki revealed another envelope, which Durst acknowledged mailing to Berman, that has similar writing in block letters and also misspelled the address as "Beverley."

"I wrote this one but I did not write the cadaver one," Durst said.

But when shown an enlargement of both copies, Durst couldn't distinguish them.

Durst — still worth millions despite his estrangement from his family, whose New York real estate empire is worth about \$4 billion — has maintained his innocence in three killings in as many states.

He was acquitted by a Texas jury in the 2001 dismemberment killing of his elderly neighbor, whose body parts were found floating in Galveston Bay. Lawyers said Durst — who fled Texas and was brought back to trial after being caught shoplifting in Pennsylvania — killed Morris Black in self-defense.

Durst, however, admitted using a paring knife, two saws and an ax to dismember the body, and that may result in a delay of his transfer to Los Angeles, because he was arrested with a revolver on Saturday. □



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Cuba, U.S. hold new round of talks on diplomatic ties

MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
ETER ORSI

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAVANA (AP) — U.S. and Cuban diplomats talked behind closed doors Monday in a last-minute round of negotiations aimed at restoring full diplomatic relations before a key regional summit in less than a month.

A small team of negotiators led by Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roberta S. Jacobson met with Josefi- na Vidal, Cuba's top diplo- mat for U.S. affairs, in open- ended talks announced less than 48 hours before Jacobson flew to Havana on Sunday.

The U.S. and Cuba held their first round of talks in Havana in January, a little more than a month after presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro an- nounced that they would reopen embassies in each other's countries and try to move toward a broader normalization.

The second round was held

in Washington last month and both sides said they were optimistic that they would be able to resolve a series of sticking points before Obama and Castro attend the Summit of the Americas in Panama on April 10-11.

The first rounds each lasted a day and saw negotiators routinely issuing updates on progress. This week's was held without a finish- ing date or any scheduled statements to the press.

"I think their focus is on rolling up their sleeves and having tough discus- sions and getting the work done," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters in Washing- ton.

The State Department said Friday that topics being dis- cussed in Havana would in- clude lifting caps on Cuban and U.S. diplomatic staff and limits on their move- ments outside Havana and Washington.

"They're down to sort of nuts and bolts," said John Caulfield, who was U.S. In-

terests Section chief from 2011 until last summer. He said other topics likely in- cluded housing for diplo- mats and U.S. shipments to the new embassy.

Mark Erwin, a former U.S. ambassador to Mauritius who met with Vidal and U.S. officials in Cuba this month, said both sides were opti- mistic that establishment of actual embassies would happen before the April 10 summit in Panama City. □



Magnets for sale decorate a tourist shop, one showing an image of U.S. President Barack Obama smelling a cigar, at a market in Havana, Cuba, Monday, March 16, 2015.

Associated Press



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Official: Iran confronts U.S. at nuke talks over GOP letter

BRADLEY KLAPPER

Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland

(AP) — Iranian diplomats twice confronted their American counterparts about an open letter from Republican senators who warned that any nuclear deal could expire the day President Barack Obama leaves office, U.S. officials said Monday.

The officials, noting the administration's warnings when the letter first surfaced, said the GOP intervention was a new issue in the tense negotiations facing an end-of-month deadline for a framework agreement.

The letter came up in nuclear talks Sunday between senior U.S. and Iranian negotiators, the officials said, and the Iranians raised it again in discussions Monday led by Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Zarif was quoted by Iranian state media after the meeting as saying the topics included the potential speed of a softening of U.S. economic sanctions and the new issue of the letter from the senators. "It is necessary that the stance of the U.S. administration be defined about this move," he was quoted as saying.

Kerry and Zarif met for nearly five hours in Lausanne, the start of several planned days of discussions. Most of the Iranians then departed for Brussels, where they were to meet with European negotiators.

In Brussels, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogh-

erini said that "we are entering a crucial time, a crucial two weeks." And German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said that after "more than 10 years of negotiations, we should seize this opportunity."

"There are areas where we've made progress, areas where we have yet to make any progress," Brit-

week that some U.S. legislators didn't understand their own Constitution.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the issue was a "distraction" but would not sidetrack the talks.

"Negotiations in our view, and I think most people's view, are not about a letter that was ill-informed and ill-advised," she told

a deal would be insufficient and unenforceable, allowing Iran to eventually become a nuclear-armed state. To that end, they've delivered a series of proposals to undercut or block an agreement, including ones that would require Senate say-so on a deal and order new sanctions against Iran while negotiations are underway.

clear weapons.

The agreement taking shape would limit Iran's uranium enrichment and other nuclear activity for at least a decade, with the restrictions slowly lifted over several years. Washington and other world powers also would gradually scale back sanctions that have crippled the Iranian economy. Tehran says it is only interested in peaceful energy generation and medical research, but much of the world suspects it harbors nuclear weapons ambitions.

Kerry and Zarif plan to regroup in Lausanne on Tuesday. The U.S. secretary of state is to return to Washington by week's end for talks with Afghanistan's leaders, and the Iranians plan to break for the Persian New Year. Officials say talks might restart sometime next week, if necessary. A deal would also require the approval of America's negotiating partners: Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia.

With little time remaining before the end of March, some officials have said the persistent differences mean negotiators will likely settle for an announcement that they've made enough progress to justify further talks.

Such a declaration would hardly satisfy U.S. critics of the Obama administration's efforts. But the senior American official said the goal was to determine by the end of March "if we can get to a political framework that addresses the major elements of a comprehensive deal." □



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, left, listens to Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, right, before resuming talks over Iran's nuclear program in Lausanne, Switzerland, Monday, March 16, 2015.

Associated Press

ish Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said. "But the fact that we're all here talking shows the commitment on both sides to try to reach an agreement." In Lausanne, a senior U.S. official wouldn't say how much time the sides spent talking about the letter drafted seven days ago by freshman Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas and signed by 46 other GOP senators. The Iranians have called the letter a propaganda ploy, and Zarif joked last

reporters. "We certainly anticipate that the focus of the discussions will remain on the issues at hand."

In the end, the talks and a potential agreement depend on Iran showing the world that its nuclear program is exclusively peaceful, said the U.S. official, who briefed reporters in Lausanne only condition of anonymity.

The goal for a full agreement is the end of June.

Republicans argue that

Cotton's letter, the administration and congressional Democrats argue, went further, interfering in the president's execution of U.S. foreign policy. The letter, styled as a U.S. civics lesson, warned Iranian leaders that any deal negotiated by the current administration could be tossed by Obama's successor.

Obama and other officials insist they're not going to make any deal that would allow Iran to acquire nu-



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Talks to save Belfast power-sharing overshadow St Pat's Day

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — It has become a hallmark of the St. Patrick's Day holiday: the entire political elite of Ireland descending on the White House.

Not this year. Northern Ireland's unity government is in turmoil, and its leaders are staying put in Belfast to try to resolve their troubles. At risk is an 8-year-old governing coalition of British Protestants and Irish Catholics that is supposed to ensure lasting peace in the British territory.

First Minister Peter Robinson and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness spent Monday leading their parties in Belfast negotiations. Robinson's Democratic Unionists represent most Protestants, McGuinness' Sinn Fein most Catholics.

Both parties said they were making unspecified progress in a process that, should it fail, would likely trigger the dissolution of the Northern Ireland Assembly for early elections that would leave any resurrection of power-sharing in doubt.

The crisis stems from a surprise policy U-turn from Sinn Fein, which just before Christmas backed a compromise plan to cut welfare benefits, ending a budget dispute that had eroded the Northern Ireland government's ability to function. Publicly supportive of that deal, Sinn Fein last week stunned the Protestant side of the house by withdrawing support hours before a critical legislative vote on the cuts.

While the White House has been hosting Northern Ireland leaders each St. Patrick's Day since the mid-1990s heyday of peace-making, this time officials in the Obama administration sent a stern message to Belfast: Robinson and Mc-

Guinness should stay home unless they could come to Washington with a firm new agreement in place.

Adding to the political tensions is a wave of accusations and counter-accusations involving the alleged cover-up of rape cases within the secretive ranks of Sinn Fein and the allied Irish Republican Army.

Two people have accused Sinn Fein officials of warning them not to tell police of how IRA members raped them. One is a female relative of a senior IRA figure, the other a man who lived in a border home used as an IRA hideout.

Sinn Fein — which ended its official policy of hostility to the Northern Ireland police only in 2007 as a condition of entering the provincial government — accepts that both were raped as teenagers in the 1990s, but rejects their cover-up accusations.

Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny will be guest of honor Tuesday at the White House for the Republic of Ireland leader's presentation of a bowl of shamrock to the U.S. president. That tradition dates to the 1950s and reached its apotheosis under former President Bill Clinton, the first American leader to take a hands-on approach to brokering peace in Northern Ireland. Kenny, while traveling over the weekend in Georgia and Texas, called on Sinn Fein to come clean about its involvement in shielding scores of perpetrators of rape and other crimes, including those committed during decades of IRA violence. Sinn Fein party leader Gerry Adams, also on the White House guest list for Tuesday, has accused Kenny of seeking to smear his reputation in advance of Republic of Ireland elections expected in 2016. □



Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny, left, talks with Jimmy Canty, originally of Kerry, Ireland, center, and Kathleen Fox, both living in Atlanta, as he greets customers at the grand opening of Fado Irish Pub in Midtown before serving as grand marshal of the city's St. Patrick's Day parade, Saturday, March 14, 2015, in Atlanta.

Associated Press



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Netanyahu promises no Palestinian state if he is re-elected

JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — In a frenzied last day of campaigning, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday ruled out the establishment of a Palestinian state and vowed to keep building east Jerusalem settlements as he appealed to hard-line voters on the eve of Israel's closely contested general election.

The moderate opposition, meanwhile, announced a dramatic last-minute machination of its own, removing one of its two joint candidates for prime minister.

Netanyahu, who has governed for the past six years and has long been the most dominant personality in Israeli politics, has watched his standing plummet in recent weeks. Recent opinion polls show his Likud Party lagging behind Isaac Herzog's Zionist Union. Herzog, who has vowed to revive peace efforts with the Palestinians, repair ties with the U.S. and reduce the growing gaps between rich and poor, confidently predicted an "upheaval" was imminent. Late Monday night, it was announced that Herzog's main partner, former Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, had given up an agreement to rotate the prime minister post with him if their alliance wins. It was widely thought that the unusual arrangement was driving away voters.

Tuesday's election caps an acrimonious three-month campaign that is widely seen as a referendum on Netanyahu.

While his comments Monday appeared to be election rhetoric, they nonetheless put him further at odds with the international com-

munity, boding poorly for already strained relations with the U.S. and other key allies if he wins a third consecutive term.

The hard-line leader has portrayed himself as the only politician capable of confronting Israel's numerous security challenges, while his opponents have

siphoning off voters from nationalistic rivals, but risks alienating centrist voters who are expected to determine the outcome of the race.

Speaking to the nrg news website, Netanyahu said that turning over captured territory to the Palestinians would clear the way for

if the Palestinians recognize Israel as the state of the Jewish people, we will be willing in a real peace agreement to reach a solution of a demilitarized Palestinian state alongside the Jewish state," he said at the time.

Despite that pledge, two rounds of peace talks have

ly to worsen his already strained ties with his western allies if he is re-elected. It also raises questions about what kind of vision he has for solving the conflict with the Palestinians. Most demographers agree that if Israel continues to control millions of Palestinians, the country will not be able to remain both Jewish and democratic.

Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi said Netanyahu's comments were "dangerous" and could plunge the region into violence.

"This is the real Netanyahu," she said. "From the beginning, he was attempting to carry out a grand deception by pretending to be in favor of the two-state solution. But what he was actually doing on the ground is destroying the chances of peace."

Earlier, Netanyahu paid a last-minute visit to Har Homa, a Jewish development in east Jerusalem that Netanyahu helped build during his first term as prime minister in 1997. The sprawling district now houses more than 20,000 residents.

While Israel considers the area a part of its capital, the international community considers it an illegal settlement on occupied land. The Palestinians seek east Jerusalem as their capital.

"We will preserve Jerusalem's unity in all its parts. We will continue to build and fortify Jerusalem so that its division won't be possible and it will stay united forever," Netanyahu said, explaining that Har Homa was built to contain Palestinian development in the nearby West Bank town of Bethlehem.

There was no immediate comment from U.S. officials. □



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu talks as he visits a construction site in Har Homa, east Jerusalem, Monday March 16, 2015, a day ahead of legislative elections. Netanyahu is seeking his fourth term as prime minister.
Associated Press

focused on the country's high cost of living and presented Netanyahu as imperious and out of touch with the common man.

As Netanyahu's poll numbers have dropped in recent days, he has appeared increasingly desperate, stepping up his nationalistic rhetoric in a series of interviews to local media to appeal to his core base. Netanyahu has also complained of an international conspiracy to oust him, funded by wealthy foreigners who dislike him, and on Sunday night, he addressed an outdoor rally before tens of thousands of hard-line supporters in Tel Aviv.

The strategy is aimed at

Islamic extremists to take control and attack Israel.

"Whoever ignores that is burying his head in the sand. The left is doing that, burying its head in the sand time after time," he said in the video interview.

When asked if that means a Palestinian state will not be established if he is elected, Netanyahu replied, "Indeed."

It was the latest — and clearest — attempt by Netanyahu to disavow his earlier support for Palestinian independence, which he first laid out in a landmark 2009 speech.

"If we get this guarantee for demilitarization and necessary security arrangements for Israel, and

failed and Netanyahu has continued to expand Jewish settlements.

Reaching a two-state solution to the Palestinian conflict has been a top foreign policy priority for President Obama.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki would only say on Monday that the U.S. will work with whoever wins the Israeli election.

The international community overwhelmingly supports the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip, areas captured by Israel in 1967, and opposes settlement construction. Netanyahu's tough new position is like-



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Native daughter returns home for her 60th birthday



March 13
TROMP, Thomas De A. - Garage: A daughter, Marline Cristina
DE CUBA, Armando - Electrical: A son, Rolando Rosendo
HENRIQUEZ, Angel - Electrical: A daughter, Zaida Aurora
HARMS, Clyde R. - Accounting: A daughter, Esther Ruth
TROMP, Pedro J. - Utilities: A daughter, Beatrix Marlin

March 23
FRANKEN, Raimundo L. - Machinist: A daughter, Marlyn Geraldine.
HENRIQUEZ, Pablo - Storehouse: A son, Silvio Victoriano.
WELLER, Jose T. - C&LE: A son, Victoriano Roland.
GOMES, Fidelio - Pipe: A son, Agapito.

March 24
LEWIS, Mayford y Yard: A son, Albert Gabriel.
CHRISTIAANS, Hose M. - Yard: A son.

March 26
HEREIRA, Angel I. - C&LE: A daughter, Ingrid Maximina.

March 27
FALCONI, Jacobo P. - C&LE: A daughter, Maria Wendish Greta.
FARO, Dominico T. - Boiler: A daughter, Debra Dian.
KROZENDIJK, Vicente - Laundry: A son, Juan Jozef.
KELLY, Higinio A. - TSD Eng.: A son.

New Arrivals from Aruba Esso News of April 9, 1955.

Sixty years ago the Aruba Esso News announced under New Arrivals the birth of Esther Ruth Harms, daughter of Clyde Harms, currently President Emeritus of the Aruba Scholarship Foundation. After six years Ruth left Aruba with her family. During the next twelve years Ruth went wherever her father (then an employee of Esso/Exxon) was sent to,

and then some! By the time she graduated from high school in Beirut, Lebanon, Ruth had attended ten different schools in six countries and five continents. She obtained her Bachelors degree at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota and her Masters in Social Work at University of Missouri. Almost 30 years ago she and her husband settled in Amherst, Massachu-

setts but she never forgot Aruba. She continued to visit her island regularly and over a decade ago the Aruban Tourism Authority named Ruth and her husband Ambassadors of Goodwill.

In 2010 the Northwestern Children's Advocacy Project of Hampshire County, Massachusetts honored Ruth with the Ellen Sedlis Award which

is presented annually to "someone whose work demonstrates a long-term commitment to helping children recover from abuse". At that time she also received from the State of Massachusetts a Citation that reads "In recognition of her outstanding dedication and many valuable

contributions for years to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County."

Last year Ruth was inducted into the Royal Order of Oranje-Nassau for her outstanding and compassionate service at Big Brother Big Sister of Hampshire County, MA during a quarter of a century and for her two decades of dedicated participation in the volunteer UMASS International Students Hospitality Program that she now presides.

Ruth Harms is married to Dr. Stephen Hickman, an associate pediatrician at Amherst Pediatrics. The couple celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary in December. They have two adult children, Sarah Elizabeth and Rachel.

Happy Birthday, Ruth! Enjoy your island's beaches and warm weather. ☐



Ruth Harms and her husband Dr. Stephen Hickman arrive in Aruba, happy to have left the snow and cold weather of Amherst, MA

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Hollywood Smokehouse entertains island concierges

EAGLE BEACH – On Friday evening, the staff and management of Hollywood Smokehouse entertained a group of concierges from various resorts. Hollywood Smokehouse opened last summer, and Friday night's event was a great opportunity for the concierges to sample the island's only smokehouse cuisine, as well as the restaurant's craft cocktails like their signature Bourbonwood (fresh blackberry bourbon lemonade), as well as the Peach Moon (made with authentic moonshine from North Carolina), and the Aruba Aloe (made with aloe juice, cucumber, mint, and tequila). The Hollywood Smokehouse may be new to the Alhambra Casino & Shops in the Eagle Beach area, but the restaurant's legacy dates back to nearly 75 years ago. In 1941, Francisco Bislick opened The Hollywood Hotel in San Nicolas. Four



generations later, Michael Bislick took the reigns from his father, Mario, in 2001 to run The Hollywood Bar, catering to thirsty refinery workers and merchant marines. In 2010, Tina Bislick brought her southern roots into the mix, introducing San Nicolas and the island to its first taste of low and slow barbecue. The Hollywood Smokehouse was a favorite lunch venue of refinery workers, and also developed a loyal following from both locals and tourists who journeyed to the southern end of the island for smoked barbe-

cue and southern side dishes and desserts made



with Tina's cherished family recipes.



The closing of the refinery in 2012 prompted the Bislicks to bring their southern style barbecue to the northwest end of the island, operating on weekends under a tent. Urged by family and friends in the community to once again open full time, Michael and Tina are now enjoying Hollywood's new location at Alhambra Casino & Shops. Although the location has changed, the legacy of hospitality that began four generations ago with Michael's great grandfather and The Hollywood Hotel continues on today!

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Champion of Men's NCAA Division I College Basketball. It is scheduled to begin on March 17, 2015, and will conclude with the Championship Game on April 6 at Lucas Oil

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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



Adidas to end NBA partnership after 2016-2017

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — NBA teams will no longer be outfitted by Adidas after the 2016-17 season, as the shoemaker and sports gear company said Monday it wouldn't renew its partnership with the league.

The league had already informed Adidas that it was opening the bidding for the next contract, according to a person familiar with the process. The NBA is to be expected to announce a new partnership sometime around its Board of Governors meeting next month, the person told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because details are still being finalized.

But Adidas, which has slipped to No. 3 in sporting apparel sales in the U.S., behind Nike and Under Armour, said in a statement that it wouldn't bid.

The company, based in Herzogenaurach, Germany, said that "while we have enjoyed a successful long-term relationship with the league, we continually review our partner agreements to ensure they are meeting our investment and delivering on our brand and business needs."

Adidas became the exclusive outfitter for the NBA, WNBA and NBA Development League in 2006 under an 11-year deal. Adidas supplies the NBA with uniforms and holds the rights to NBA-branded merchandise worldwide.

It also has individual endorsement deals with top NBA players such as Chicago's Derrick Rose, Houston's Dwight Howard and All-Stars Damian Lillard of Portland and John Wall of Washington.

Continued on next page

RUSSELL-ING BULLS

Westbrook has 36 as OKC hold off the Bulls



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots over Chicago Bulls guard E'Twaun Moore (55) and forward Mike Dunleavy (34) in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, March 15, 2015. Oklahoma City won 109-100.
Associated Press
Page 19

Murray reaches 4th round, Wozniacki upset at Indian Wells

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — Andy Murray outlasted Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 in a nearly two-hour baseline slugfest under a hot sun at the BNP Paribas Open on Monday.

Murray earned the only two breaks of the third set and closed out the win when Kohlschreiber's forehand went wide, one of 35 unforced errors by the German. The temperature topped 90 degrees, unusually warm for this time of year.

Cool mornings, hot afternoons and warm evenings have made for changing court conditions and ball speed in the desert, and Murray was affected by them.

"When you are playing in those matches during the heat of the day, you need to trust your shots. You need to go after them, because if you back off and try and sort of guide the ball in these conditions, it doesn't work," he said. "During the day it's ridiculous how high the balls bounce and how quick they move through the air and jump off the court."

Murray moved on to a fourth-round match against Adrian Mannarino, who beat 14th-seeded Ernests Gulbis, 6-4, 6-4.

Fifth-seeded Kei Nishikori was stretched to three sets before overcoming Fernando



Andy Murray, of Great Britain, returns a volley from Philipp Kohlschreiber, of Germany, during their match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Monday, March 16, 2015 in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

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Verdasco, 6-7 (8), 6-1, 6-4.

On the women's side, former Indian Wells winner and No. 4 seed Caroline Wozniacki was beaten 6-4, 6-4 by 31st-seeded Belinda Bencic a week after the Dane won her 23rd career singles title at Kuala Lumpur.

Qualifier Lesia Tsurenko defeated 20th-seeded Alize Cornet, 7-5, 1-6, 6-2.

Eugenie Bouchard defeated CoCo Vandeweghe 6-3, 6-2 to reach the fourth round.

The sixth-seeded Canadian faced the only break point on her serve of the match in the last game, but Vandeweghe netted a forehand. Bouchard hit a forehand winner on her second match point. Vandeweghe had 24 unforced errors in the third-round match, the farthest the American has gotten at Indian Wells in four tries.

"I felt very solid," Bouchard said. "That's important against a player who can have big weapons. She had some great serves and some great forehands. I was going to try to neutralize that and take my chances when I had them."

Bouchard had plenty of support in the crowd from the many Canadians who spend the winter in the desert. They waved red and white Maple Leaf flags in what seemed like a home match for Bouchard.

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic plays a late match, and Maria Sharapova and Victoria Azarenka meet in an evening match between former No. 1 players. □

Adidas

Continued from page 17

ups that could have created uncertainty for the NBA.

Global brands head Erich Stammer left the company last year and CEO and Chairman Herbert Hainer had recently announced he would step down, leadership shake-

That could leave the door for Nike, the partner before Adidas, to move back in, or Under Armour, which has seen its basketball business grow thanks to the success of Golden State star Stephen Curry. □

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NBA Capsules

Westbrook lifts Thunder to 109-100 win over Bulls

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Russell Westbrook had 36 points, 11 rebounds and six assists as the Oklahoma City Thunder held off the Chicago Bulls 109-100 on Sunday.

Enes Kanter added 18 points and 18 rebounds and fellow center Steven Adams had 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Thunder.

Westbrook's final assist came on the game-turning play. With the Thunder up 99-95 in the final minute, he held the ball until near the end of the shot clock, then passed to Anthony Morrow, who hit a 3-pointer. Nikola Mirotic scored 27 points and Pau Gasol added 20 for Chicago.

Oklahoma City won for the 16th time in its last 18 home games.

CAVALIERS 123, MAGIC 108
ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Kyrie Irving scored 33 points, and J.R. Smith had 25 as Cleveland rolled past Orlando.

Cleveland went 18 for 35 from 3-point range. Irving was 5 for 6 from beyond the arc.

Victor Oladipo led the Magic with 25 points. Orlando has lost four straight. **HAWKS 91, LAKERS 86**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dennis Schroder had 24 points and 10 assists, and Al Horford scored 21 points as Atlanta beat Los Angeles.

Atlanta's Kyle Korver left with a broken nose after taking an offensive foul from Ed Davis with 8:59 left in the first half. The injury ended a streak of 51 consecutive games with a 3-pointer by Korver, who missed both of his shots

from behind the arc.

Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer rested starters Jeff Teague, DeMarre Carroll and Paul Millsap and inserted Schroder at the point, Pero Antic at small forward and former Laker Kent Bazemore at power forward. Schroder, the 17th overall pick in the 2013 draft, made his seventh start in 113 NBA games and was 7 for 16 from the field in his best game as a pro.

Atlanta (52-14) moved within a half-game of idle Golden State for the NBA's best record with 16 games left — including a showdown with the Warriors on Wednesday night at Oakland.

Reserves Carlos Boozer and Ryan Kelly each scored 13 points for the Lakers.

ROCKETS 100, CLIPPERS 98
LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Harden scored 34 points, and Terrence Jones added 16 points and 12 rebounds in Houston's victory over Los Angeles.

Trevor Ariza had 19 points and nine rebounds, helping Houston move within two games of idle Memphis for the Southwest Division lead.

Chris Paul scored 23 points for the Clippers, but missed a 5-foot fadeaway jumper at the buzzer. Blake Griffin had 11 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists in 40 minutes in his return to the lineup after surgery to remove a staph infection in his right elbow.

NUGGETS 118, PELICANS 111, 2OT

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Will Barton scored 25 points, including the game-leveling 3-pointer late in the first

overtime, as undermanned Denver beat New Orleans for its fourth straight victory. Kenneth Faried had 20 points and 10 rebounds for Denver. Danilo Gallinari added 17 points, including a 3 that gave the Nuggets a 114-109 lead with 1:30 left in the second overtime. Ty Lawson added 19 points and Jameer Nelson 18 for Denver, which won even as coach Melvin Hunt chose to rest three regulars — Wilson Chandler, Randy Foye and Darrell Arthur — so the team could get a better look at some younger players. □



Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) goes up for a shot defended by Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin, right, during the fourth quarter of a NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, March 15, 2015.

Associated Press



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NHL Capsules

Talbot makes 38 saves, streaking Rangers beat Panthers

NEW YORK (AP) — Cam Talbot made 38 saves as the streaking New York Rangers beat the Florida Panthers 2-1 on Sunday for their 14th victory in 17 games.

New York has an NHL-best 95 points and has earned at least one point in 17 of 18 games. James Sheppard and Matt Hunwick scored for the Rangers.

The Panthers, who began the day six points out of a playoff spot, lost in regulation for the first time in five games. Brandon Pirri scored his 15th goal, and Dan Ellis made 32 saves.

HURRICANES 3, BLUE JACKETS 2

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Brad Malone's goal capped a big second period for Carolina and helped the Hurricanes end a three-game losing streak with a victory against Columbus.

Justin Faulk and Ron Hainsey also scored for the Hurricanes. Andrej Nestrasil had two assists, and Anton Khudobin made 22 saves.

Nick Foligno and Scott Hartnell had the goals for Columbus, which had won three straight. Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 24 shots.

RED WINGS 5, PENGUINS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Teemu Pulkkinen scored twice for the first multi-goal game of his career as the Detroit Red Wings thrashed the Pittsburgh



New York Rangers goaltender Cam Talbot makes a save during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Florida Panthers, Sunday, March 15, 2015, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Penguins.

Marek Zidlicky added a goal and two assists for the Red Wings. Henrik Zetterberg and Riley Sheahan also scored for Detroit. Petr Mrazek made 42 saves for his first win in over a month.

Marc-Andre Fleury stopped just 12 of the 16 shots before being pulled in the second period as the Penguins lost their second straight.

Associated Press
David Perron scored his 17th, and Sidney Crosby picked up an assist after missing Saturday's loss to Boston due to an illness.

BLUES 3, STARS 0

DALLAS (AP) — Jake Allen made 28 saves for his fourth shutout this season, and Vladimir Tarasenko broke a scoreless tie with a goal in the third period in St. Louis' win over Dallas.

The Blues added a pow-

er-play goal by Alexander Steen and an empty-netter by T.J. Oshie in the final 3:15. It was Allen's fifth career shutout.

Steen and Oshie each had a goal and an assist, and teammate Alex Pietrangelo had two assists. St. Louis killed all six Stars power plays. The Blues' penalty killers have been successful in 29 of 30 chances over the last nine games.

CAPITALS 2, BRUINS 0

WASHINGTON (AP) — Braden Holtby made 32 saves for his eighth shutout of the season and Nicklas Backstrom became Washington's career assists leader as the Capitals cooled the surging Boston Bruins.

Holtby rebounded from being pulled during the second period of Friday night's loss after allowing four goals on 22 shots. Washington moved two points ahead of Boston for the first Eastern Conference wild-card spot. Backstrom assisted on goals by John Carlson and Nate Schmidt, moving past Michal Pivonka and Alex Ovechkin (418 each) on the Capitals' assists list with 420.

The Bruins had won five straight, and were 7-0-1 in their last eight.

SENATORS 2, FLYERS 1, SO OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Bobby Ryan scored the shootout winner and Andrew Hammond stopped 27 shots, lifting Ottawa

past Philadelphia.

Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored the lone goal in regulation for the Senators, who have won their last three games as they make a playoff push. Hammond, making his third straight start, has allowed just 16 goals in his first 11 games.

Jakub Voracek scored for the Flyers, and Ray Emery made 27 saves in his first appearance since Feb. 19.

DUCKS 4, PREDATORS 2

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Kyle Palmieri scored the tying goal and Nate Thompson put the Ducks ahead 35 seconds later, leading Anaheim back from a two-goal deficit with a four-goal third period.

Ryan Getzlaf scored early in the third and Cam Fowler added a power-play goal for the Ducks. John Gibson made 25 saves as Anaheim won its second straight after a three-game skid, staying even with the Rangers atop the overall NHL standings.

Roman Josi and Taylor Beck scored, and Pekka Rinne stopped 24 shots in Nashville's eighth loss in 10 games.

In other NHL games it was Ottawa 2, Philadelphia 1; SO; Detroit 5, Pittsburgh 1; N.Y. Rangers 2, Florida 1; Carolina 3, Columbus 2; St. Louis 3, Dallas 0; Washington 2, Boston 0; and Anaheim 4, Nashville 2. □



New York City FC's Jason Hernandez, left, and Ned Grabavoy, 3rd from left, celebrate with teammate Patrick Mullins, (14), after Mullins scored the team's second goal against the New England Revolution in an MLS soccer game in New York on Sunday, March 15, 2015.

Associated Press

David Villa leads New York past New England 2-0 in MLS

NEW YORK (AP) — Spanish striker David Villa scored one goal and set up another to help New York City beat a 10-man New England Revolution 2-0 on Sunday in its Major League Soccer home debut at Yankee Stadium.

Villa dribbled the ball up the left side of the field in the 19th minute and touched it to Ned Grabavoy, who fed it ahead. Villa split two defenders

and chipped the ball inside the far post.

Patrick Mullins made it 2-0 in the 84th minute after Villa used some nifty footwork to create space and sent a cross to an open Mullins at the far post.

Jose Goncalves was shown a red card in the 66th minute after a hard tackle on Khiry Shelton just outside the area.

In Portland, Oregon,

Alan Gordon scored the equalizer in stoppage time to give the Los Angeles Galaxy a 2-2 draw with the Timbers.

Fanendo Adi scored twice for Portland, in the 2nd in the 90th minutes. Gyasi Zardes scored in the 65th minute to level it at 1-1 for the Galaxy.

It was Portland's second straight draw to start at home to start the season. □

Aaron Burmeister first to reach Bering Sea coast in Iditarod

DAN JOLING

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— A 15-year Iditarod veteran who has never finished higher than fourth was back in the lead Sunday in the 2015 race to Nome, his hometown.

Aaron Burmeister, 39, was the first musher to reach Unalakleet, the first checkpoint on the Bering Sea coast.

He covered the 90 miles (144 kilometers) of trail from Kaltag in 11 hours. Unalakleet is 269 miles from Nome.

Burmeister left Kaltag in third place with 13 dogs after taking a mandatory

eight-hour layover at the last checkpoint on the Yukon River. He left in bitter cold temperatures behind Aliy Zirkle and four-time champion Jeff King.

Mushers will face hard-packed trail and chilling North Pacific winds as they run up the coast from Unalakleet and finish at the historic gold rush city.

King, 59, a four-time champion who last won the race in 2006, rested for more than six hours in Kaltag and left 12 minutes before Burmeister's eight hours were up.

Both were more rested than Zirkle, who reached Kaltag at 2:34 a.m. Sunday

and stayed just 14 minutes before leaving with 14 dogs in harness.

Some mushers choose not to rest at checkpoints, where competitors can keep track of them, and Zirkle may have rested her team after leaving Kaltag. By midafternoon Sunday, 17 mushers had left Kaltag. The competitive portion of the 1,000-mile race began March 9 in Fairbanks with 78 mushers.

Five mushers have scratched and one has been disqualified.

Two dogs have died, including one on the team of four-time champion Lance Mackey. □



Aaron Burmeister relaxes in the Unalakleet checkpoint for the Iditarod after arriving there first on Sunday, March 15, 2015. Associated Press

Sagan wins penultimate Tirreno stage; Quintana retains lead

PORTO SANT'ELPIDIO, Italy (AP)

— Peter Sagan sprinted through the rain to win the penultimate stage of the Tirreno-Adriatico on Monday, while Nairo Quintana retained the overall lead heading into the final day.

Sagan won a mass sprint to complete the victory in 5 hours, 4 minutes, 14 seconds in difficult conditions over the 210-kilometer (130.5-mile) route from Rieti to Porto Sant'Elpidio, the sixth stage of the race across central Italy. The Slovak sprint specialist pumped his fists in the air as he crossed the line ahead of Gerald Ciolek and Jens Debusschere for his first victory for Tinkoff-Saxo, after two second-place finishes in this year's Tirreno.

Quintana tops the overall standings, retaining a 39-second advantage over Bauke Mollema and a 48-second lead over Rigoberto Uran.

Tuesday's final stage is a 10K (6.2-mile) individual time trial around San Benedetto del Tronto.

Sunday's stage was a tough one, with snow falling heavily on the difficult climb to Terminillo. There were several withdrawals



Peter Sagan, of Slovakia, the winner, second left, celebrates after crossing the finish line of the sixth stage of the Tirreno-Adriatico cycling race across central Italy from Rieti to Porto Sant'Elpidio, Monday, March 16, 2015. Associated Press

before the start of Monday's stage and several more during the route as the rain continued to lash down on the riders, who also had to endure low temperatures.

Alessandro Vanotti, Stijn Devolder and Yukiya Arashiro broke clear after 15K (9.3 miles) and had a lead of nearly six minutes before the peloton started to reel them in.

The Tinkoff-Saxo team, which was riding for Sagan's bid for a stage win and Alberto Contador's faint hopes of retaining his Tirreno title, upped the pace on the ascent up to Montelparo — the sole

categorized climb of the day — and cut the gap to 1:34.

The three leaders were caught with 51K (31.7 miles) remaining before Vanotti broke again and established a lead of 25 seconds as he approached Porto Sant'Elpidio before the two final laps of 14.4K (9 miles).

Alexis Vuillermoz left the peloton and bridged the gap to Vanotti, with the two building a lead of 30 seconds. The Frenchman then left Vanotti alone but was reeled in with 3.2K (two miles) to go as the teams set up their riders for the sprint finish. □

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MARCH 12 - 18

CINDERELLA
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:00 | 6:25 | 7:40 | 8:55
FRI 4:00 | 6:25 | 8:55 | 7:40 | 11:25
SAT 2:15 | 4:00 | 6:25 | 8:55 | 7:40 | 11:25
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 4:00 | 6:25 | 7:40 | 8:55
SPANISH MON-FRI 5:10
SAT 2:40 | 5:10 | 10:10
SUN & HOL 2:40 | 5:10 | 10:10

RUN ALL NIGHT
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25
FRI 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 11:50
SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25

MARIGOLD HOTEL
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:05
FRI-SAT 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:05 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:05

THE COBBLER
MON-THURS 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35

CHAPPIE
MON-THURS 6:45 | 9:20
FRI 6:45 | 9:20 | 11:55
SAT 6:45 | 9:20 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 6:45 | 9:20

**THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE
SPONGE OUT OF WATER**
MON-FRI 4:40
SAT 2:35 | 4:40
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:40

focus
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30
FRI 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
MON-THURS 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35
FRI 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35 | 11:35
SAT 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35

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Fluoride Spin

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Imagine you are a government official trying to decide what to do with the oldest and biggest toxic industrial pollutant. Nationwide, in the United States fluoride remains one of industry's largest pollutants. By the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) last estimate, at least 155,000 tons a year were being released into the air by U.S. industrial plants. Emissions into water lakes, rivers, and ocean have been estimated to be as high as 500,000 tons a year. Recent EPA data indicates that fluoride is currently the 6th most emitted Hazardous Air Pollutant in the US, although total air emissions are now considerably lower than 155,000 tons.

Our air is contaminated by fluoride emissions from the production of iron, steel, aluminum, copper, lead and zinc; phosphates (essential for the manufacture of all agricultural fertilizers); plastics; gasoline; brick, cement, glass, ceramics, and the infinite other products made from clay; electrical power generation and all other coal combustion; and uranium processing. Our water is being polluted with fluoride by the producers and processors of glass, pesticides and fertilizers, steel and aluminum, chemicals, and metals. The metal processing industries include copper and brass, as well as titanium, super-alloys, and refractory metals for military use. So, like any other decep-

tive politician you take your pollution problem, which is going to cost a lot of money to get rid off, and manipulate the facts about fluoride to influence the public so they believe that fluoride is good for them – this is called “putting a spin to the problem”; the latest buzzword for lying to the public. For nearly 50 years, the U.S. government and media have been telling the public that fluoride is safe and beneficial -- it is supposed to reduce cavities, especially in children. Manufacturers add it to toothpaste; municipalities put it in the public's drinking water. Pollution problem solved by spending no money and making money for industry that gets to sell its pollution to the pharmaceutical and food industries.

The truth is that raw hazardous pollution trapped in scrubbers of the industries listed above is sold as fluoridation. Pretty neat solution for the politicians and industry; however, using of fluoridated toothpastes and dental products or ingestion of fluoridated water directly or used in food processing dramatically raises levels of lead in children's blood. These high toxic levels cause learning disorders and brain damage. Want some nonsense proof? Read the FDA fluoride toothpaste that you are using “WARNING: Keep out of reach of children under 6 years of age. In case of accidental

ingestion, seek professional assistance or contact a Poison Control center immediately”. And you are still using this stuff? Fluoride is a poison that there is enough in one standard tube of fluoridated toothpaste to KILL a 20 pound/ 9 kilo child. Professionally, I used to think that we were immune to fluoride problems here in Aruba. Unfortunately, I have been seeing fluorosis in our clinic. The ingestion of fluoride causes a condition marked by mottling, yellow patches or spots on the teeth and damage to the bones; especially bones that are still growing. We are ingesting fluoride from dental products, reconstructed juice with fluoridated water and processed foods that contain fluoride. On our last trip to Curaçao we heard that, frighteningly, our sister island is putting fluoride in their water.

As a member of the International Academy Of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT) I am privileged to review the Academy's data on ongoing examination of the toxicological data on fluoride, the Academy has made several preliminary determinations over the last 18 years, each concluding that fluoride added to the public water supply, or prescribed as controlled-dose supplements, delivers no discernible health benefit, and causes a higher incidence of adverse health effects. This is not new informa-

tion; yet, with the continuing medical use of fluoride, we should be questioning what the real motives are.

The solution? Read the label of any food products you bring into the house. Start using baking soda as toothpaste or start using natural oral care products for periodontal health without fluoride. We use natural care products that contain Xylitol. This plant based sugar-alcohol has been shown to support sinus and lungs and dental health. Remember it is a bacterium that causes cavities in your mouth. Get The Point! The only people who question the safety of fluoride, says the United States government, are quacks. Interestingly, the word “quack” was first used as a derogatory term describing the first dentists that started using mercury “quaksilver” in people's mouths. If telling people the truth and offering alternatives to products that are know to be detrimental makes me a quack, so be it. I am looking forward to working with you so you can find out more about what you can do for a healthy mouth and body; we can quack- quack together.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in



Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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Don't want NSA to spy on your email? 5 things you can do

MICHAEL LIETKE
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

More than half of Americans are worried about the U.S. government's digital spies prying into their emails, texts, search requests and other online information, but few are trying to thwart the surveillance.

That's according to a new survey from Pew Research Center, released Monday. A main reason for the inertia? Pew researchers found that a majority of those surveyed don't know about online shields that could help boost privacy or believe it would be too difficult to avoid the government's espionage.

The poll questioned 475 adults from Nov. 26 to Jan. 3 — about a year-and-a-half after confidential documents leaked by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden revealed the U.S. government has been monitoring a broad range of online communications for years as part of its efforts to diffuse terrorist threats.

"It all boils down to people sort of feeling like they have lost control over their data and their personal information," Mary Madden, a senior researcher for Pew, told The Associated Press. "But at the same time, when we asked them if they would like to do more, folks expressed that as an aspirational goal." Here are five steps you can take to be more private online.

STEALTHY SEARCHING

Don't want a digital dossier of your personal interests to be stored and analyzed? Wean yourself from the

most popular search engines — Google, Bing and Yahoo. All of them collect and dissect your queries to learn what kinds of products and services might appeal to you so they can sell advertising targeted to your interests. Just because that trove of data is

PGP, can make your email appear indecipherable to anyone without the digital key to translate the gibberish. This can help prevent highly sensitive financial and business information from getting swept up by hackers, as well as a government dragnet. Yet only

group, offers a free way to block tracking of browsing activity.

Only 5 percent of the Pew respondents used these kinds of tools.

CUT OUT THE INTERNET

It might sound old-school, but if you want to share



In this Feb. 1, 2012 file photo, a student works with a computer and a calculator at Reynoldsburg High School in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

Associated Press

meant to be used for commercial purposes doesn't mean snoopers such as the NSA couldn't vacuum up the information, too, to find out more about you. A small search engine called DuckDuckGo has been gaining more fans with its pledge to never collect personal information or track people entering queries on its site.

Just 10 percent of those participating in Pew's survey said they use a search engine that doesn't track their searching history.

SCRAMBLE YOUR EMAIL

Encryption programs such as Pretty Good Privacy, or

2 percent of the people surveyed by Pew used PGP or other email encryption programs.

CLOAK YOUR BROWSER

A privacy tool called Blur, made by Abine, enables its users to surf the Web without their activities being tracked. It also masks passwords and credit card information entered on computers and mobile devices so they can't be lifted from the databases of the websites that collect them. Blur charges \$39 annually for this level of protection. Privacy Badger from the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a digital rights

something really sensitive, meet face to face. The Pew poll found 14 percent of respondents are choosing to speak in person more frequently rather than text, email or talk on the phone because of the Snowden revelations.

GET SMARTER

If you're looking to become more literate about the ins and outs of digital privacy, two of the most comprehensive guides can be found through the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Surveillance Self-Defense site, <https://ssd.eff.org/en>, and <https://prism-break.org/en/>. □

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Draghi: Sustained recovery arriving in Europe, reform needed

DAVID McHUGH, AP Business Writer **FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)** — A sustained economic recovery is finally arriving in the 19-country eurozone, European Central Bank head Mario Draghi said Monday — a recovery he says must be used to complete the euro currency union and fix its problems for good. Draghi said in a speech at a financial forum in Frankfurt that “most indicators suggest a sustained recovery is taking hold” as consumers and businesses grow more confident and banks become more willing to lend. The head of the chief monetary authority for the shared currency said the upturn was helped by



European Central Bank head Mario Draghi prepares to hold a news conference following the Bank's Governing Council meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus, Thursday, March 5, 2015.

Associated Press

cheaper oil prices and by the central bank's stimulus policies. The ECB has cut its benchmark interest rate to near zero at 0.05 percent and

launched large-scale purchases of government and corporate bonds with newly printed money to lower longer-term borrowing costs and raise inflation from worrisome low levels. It says it will purchase 60 billion euros a month through September 2016 for a total of at least 1.1 trillion euros (\$1.2 trillion) in added monetary stimulus.

Draghi said Monday that

member countries should use the breathing space given them by the central bank's stimulus efforts. He said they need to pass tough structural reforms that would make their economies more business-friendly so they can grow and prosper — and to enshrine supervision of such policies at the EU level. The 16-year-old currency union is still struggling to overcome troubles with too much government and bank debt that led to Greece, Portugal, Ireland, Cyprus and Spain needing bailout loans from the other countries. Despite two bailouts, Greece is trying to avoid a debt default that could see it leave the euro. Draghi said that “a nascent recovery provides us with a window of opportunity, with the conditions to press ahead with reforms that will make the euro area less fragile and vulnerable to shocks.”

Eurozone countries must

make their economies more productive and “stand on their own two feet” because the eurozone doesn't provide for budget transfers from richer countries — the way U.S. states that suffer recessions can depend on tax transfers through the federal government. The way to do that was to create new EU institutions in which countries would share sovereignty over their economic policies instead of leaving the responsibility at the national level. Draghi said any such institution would need strengthened democratic oversight and accountability to voters. He didn't give a detailed picture of what such an institution would look like. The current EU-level reviews of national economic imbalances such as excessive labor costs and trade surpluses “has so far not gained much traction in national decision-making processes.” □

Foreign holdings of U.S. Treasury debt hit \$6.22 trillion



In this March 11, 2015 file photo, a vendor walks past Japan's Nikkei stock prices displayed on an electronic board in Tokyo.

Associated Press

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — Foreign holdings of U.S. Treasury securities rose to a record level in January despite a cutback by investors in China, the largest foreign owner of Treasury debt. The Treasury Department said Monday that foreign holdings increased 1 percent to \$6.22 trillion. China trimmed its holdings for a fifth month, reducing them 0.4 percent to \$1.24 trillion after a 0.5 percent cut in December. Japan, the No. 2 foreign buyer, boosted its holdings by 0.6 percent in Janu-

ary to \$1.24 trillion. Before rounding, the Chinese total is \$500 million higher than the Japanese. Foreign governments, primarily through their central banks, account for two-thirds of the foreign holdings. For January, the total held by foreign governments rose 0.3 percent in January to \$4.12 trillion. In addition to the increase by Japan, other countries who padded their holdings in January included oil exporting nations and Caribbean banking centers, a group that includes the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands. □

U.S. stocks gain, rebounding after weeks of losses



Trader James Dresch works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, March 16, 2015. U.S. stocks opened higher, led by health care and utilities companies, rebounding after three weeks of losses. Associated Press

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks bounced back on Monday after losing ground for three weeks as the dollar's rally against the euro abated. Elsewhere in financial markets, oil closed at a six-year low, below \$44 a barrel, as supplies continue to outpace demand. Treasuries

gained after some mixed reports on the economy. The stock market has stumbled in recent weeks as the dollar has surged against the euro. The U.S. currency has been rising on expectations that the Federal Reserve will start to raise interest rates even as the European Central Bank continues to provide stimulus to that region's economy.

A stronger dollar is a problem for big U.S. companies that rely on overseas sales because it makes their goods more expensive in foreign markets and reduces the value of the profits they bring back home to the U.S. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 27.79 points, or 1.4 percent, to 2,081.19. It was the biggest gain for the index in six weeks. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 228.11 points, or 1.3 percent, to 17,977.42. The Nasdaq composite jumped 57.75 points, or 1.2 percent, to 4,929.51. The focal point this week for investors is the Fed's two-day policy meeting that starts on Tuesday. Many investors and analysts expect the U.S. central bank will signal in a statement after the meeting that they are considering raising interest rates later this year. □

Is It Sheldon's World?



Thomas L. Friedman
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The symbolism was too powerful to ignore. As anyone who watched Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech last week in Congress knows, one of the people prominently seated in the House gallery was the casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, a primary financial backer of both the Republican Party and Netanyahu.

As The Washington Post's Colby Itzkowitz reported, at one point Adelson's wife, Miriam, accidentally knocked her purse off the House gallery railing and it hit Rep. Brad Ashford, D-Neb., seated below. The Post noted that Adelson had given \$5 million to the GOP's Congressional Leadership Fund super PAC, which had spent \$35,000 in a failed effort to defeat Ashford in his 2014 race against Rep. Lee Terry. Ashford later joked to The Omaha World-Herald: "I wish I'd opened the purse. Do you think she carries cash?"

We certainly know that Sheldon Adelson does. And when it came to showering that cash on Republican presidential hopefuls and right-wing PACs trying to defeat President Barack Obama (reportedly \$150 million in 2012), and on keeping Netanyahu and his Likud party in office, no single billionaire-donor is more influential than Sheldon. No matter what his agenda, it is troubling that one man, with a willingness and ability to give away giant sums, can now tilt Israeli and U.S. politics his way at the same time. Israel has much stricter laws on individuals donating to political campaigns, so Adelson got around that in 2007 by founding a free, giveaway newspaper in Israel - Israel Hayom - whose sole purpose is to back Netanyahu, attack his enemies in politics and the media, and enforce a far-right political agenda to prevent any Israeli territorial compromise on the West Bank (which, in time, could undermine Israel as a Jewish democracy). Graphically attractive, Israel Hayom is now the biggest-circulation daily in Israel. Precisely because it is free, it is putting a heavy strain on competitors, like Yediot and Haaretz, which both charge and are not pro-Netanyahu.

Adelson then bought the most important newspaper of the religious-nationalist right in Israel, Makor Rishon, long considered the main backer of Netanyahu's biggest right-wing rival, Economy Minister Naftali Bennett. Last March, in an interview with Israel Army Radio after the Makor Rishon sale, Bennett said: "It sad-

dens me. Israel Hayom is not a newspaper. It is Pravda. It's the mouthpiece of one person, the prime minister. At every junction point, every point of friction between the national interest and the interest of the prime minister, they chose the side of the prime minister."

The Washington Post said that last November at a conference of the Israel American Council, a lobbying group Adelson has funded, he joked in a public discussion with another wealthy Israeli: "Why don't you and I go after The New York Times?" Told it was family owned, Adelson quipped, "There is only one way to fight it: money." At this same conference Adelson was quoted as saying that Israel would not be able to survive as a democracy: "So Israel won't be a democratic state," he added. "So what?"

Last March in Las Vegas Adelson organized his own private Republican primary. Politico wrote at the time: "Adelson summoned [Jeb] Bush and Govs. Chris Christie of New Jersey, John Kasich of Ohio and Scott Walker of Wisconsin to Las Vegas. ... The new big-money political landscape - in which a handful of donors can dramatically alter a campaign with just a check or two." When Christie, in his speech before Adelson, described the West Bank as "occupied territories," some Republican Jews in the audience were appalled. So, Politico reported, Christie hastily arranged a meeting with Adelson to explain that he had misspoken and that he was a true friend of Israel. "The New Jersey governor apologized in a private meeting in the casino mogul's Venetian office shortly afterward," Politico reported. It said Adelson "accepted" Christie's "explanation" and "quick apology."

When money in politics gets this big, when it can make elected officials bow and scrape in two different countries at the same time, it is troubling. I'm sure Adelson cares deeply about Israel, but he lacks any sense of limits in how he exercises his extraordinary financial power - power he is using to simultaneously push Israel and the United States toward eliminating any two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians, toward defunding the Palestinian Authority and toward a confrontation with Iran, not a diplomatic solution. People need to know this.

The most important bonds between Israel and the U.S. always emerged from the bottom up - a mutual respect between two democracy-loving peoples. Money can't buy those bonds, but it can threaten them by going to excess - by taking Israel's true good will in America and using it to help one party "stick it" to the president, one big donor drive his extreme agenda, one party appear more pro-Israel than the other for electoral reasons or one Israeli politician win re-election. People who go "all the way" like this will one day go over a cliff. They will regret it. So will the rest of us. □



When Liberals Blew It



Nicholas Kristof
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Fifty years ago this month, Democrats made a historic mistake. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, at the time a federal official, wrote a famous report in March 1965 on family breakdown among African-Americans. He argued presciently and powerfully that the rise of single-parent households would make poverty more intractable.

"The fundamental problem," Moynihan wrote, is family breakdown. In a follow-up, he explained: "From the wild Irish slums of the 19th-century Eastern seaboard, to the riot-torn suburbs of Los Angeles, there is one unmistakable lesson in American history: a community that allows large numbers of young men to grow up in broken families ... never acquiring any stable relationship to male authority, never acquiring any set of rational expectations about the future - that community asks for and gets chaos."

Liberals brutally denounced Moynihan as a racist. He himself had grown up in a single-mother household and worked as a shoeshine boy at the corner of Broadway and 43rd Street in Manhattan, yet he was accused of being aloof and patronizing, and of "blaming the victim."

"My major criticism of the report is that it assumes that middle-class American values are the correct values for everyone in America," protested Floyd McK-

issick, then a prominent black civil rights leader.

The liberal denunciations of Moynihan were terribly unfair. In fact, Moynihan emphasized that slavery, discrimination and "three centuries of injustice" had devastated the black family. He favored job and education programs to help buttress the family. But the scathing commentary led President Lyndon Johnson to distance himself from the Moynihan report. Scholars, fearful of being accused of racism, mostly avoided studying family structure and poverty.

In 1992, Vice President Dan Quayle stepped into the breach by emphasizing the role of the family in addressing poverty, including a brief reference to Murphy Brown, a television character who was a single mom. Liberals rushed to ridicule Quayle for sexism and outdated moralism, causing politicians to tread this ground ever more carefully. The taboo on careful research on family structure and poverty was broken by William Julius Wilson, an eminent black sociologist. He has praised Moynihan's report as "a prophetic document," for evidence is now overwhelming that family structure matters a great deal for low-income children of any color.

In 2013, 71 percent of black children in America were born to an unwed mother, as were 53 percent of Hispanic children and 36 percent of white children. Indeed, a singleparent is the new norm. At some point before they turn 18, a majority of all U.S. children will likely live with a single mom and no dad.

My point isn't to cast judgment on nontraditional families, for single parents can be as loving as any. In fact, when one parent is abusive, the child may be better off raised by the other parent alone. And well-off kids often get plenty of support whether from one parent or two.

One kind of nontraditional household does particularly well. One study found that children raised by same-sex couples excelled by

some measures, apparently because the parents doted on their children - most gay couples don't have unwanted children whom they neglect.

Yet Moynihan was absolutely right to emphasize the consequences for low-income children of changing family structure. Partly because there is often only one income coming into a single-parent household, children of unmarried moms are roughly five times as likely to live in poverty as children of married couples.

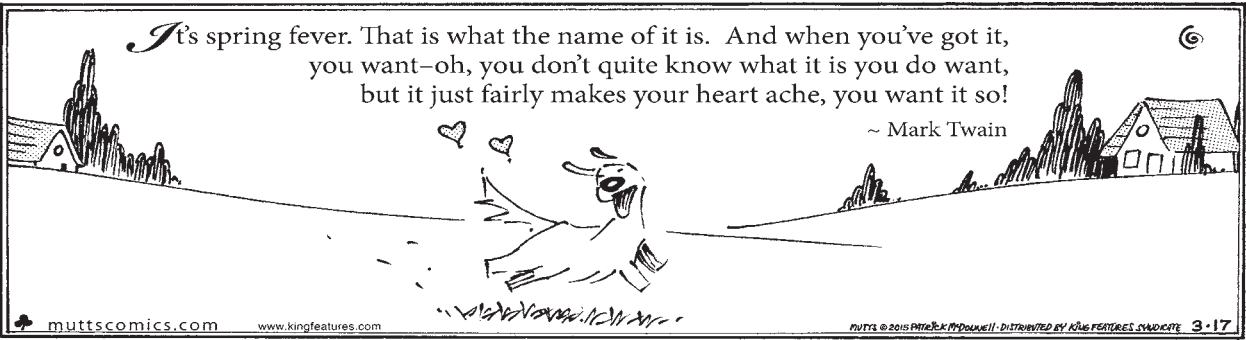
Causation is difficult to tease from correlation. But efforts to do that suggest that growing up with just one biological parent reduces the chance that a child will graduate from high school by 40 percent, according to an essay by Sara McLanahan of Princeton and Christopher Jencks of Harvard. They point to the likely mechanism: "A father's absence increases antisocial behavior, such as aggression, rule-breaking, delinquency and illegal drug use." These effects are greater on boys than on girls.

Conservatives shouldn't chortle at the evidence that liberals blew it, for they did as well. Conservatives say all the right things about honoring families, but they led the disastrous American experiment in mass incarceration; incarceration rates have quintupled since the 1970s. That devastated families, leading countless boys to grow up without dads.

What can be done? In line with Moynihan's thinking, we can support programs to boost the economic prospects for poorer families. We can help girls and young women avoid pregnancy (30 percent of U.S. girls become pregnant by age 19). If they delay childbearing, they'll be more likely to marry and form stable families, notes Isabel Sawhill of the Brookings Institution.

So let's learn from 50 years of mistakes. A starting point is to acknowledge the role of families in fighting poverty. That's not about being a moralistic scold but about helping American kids. □

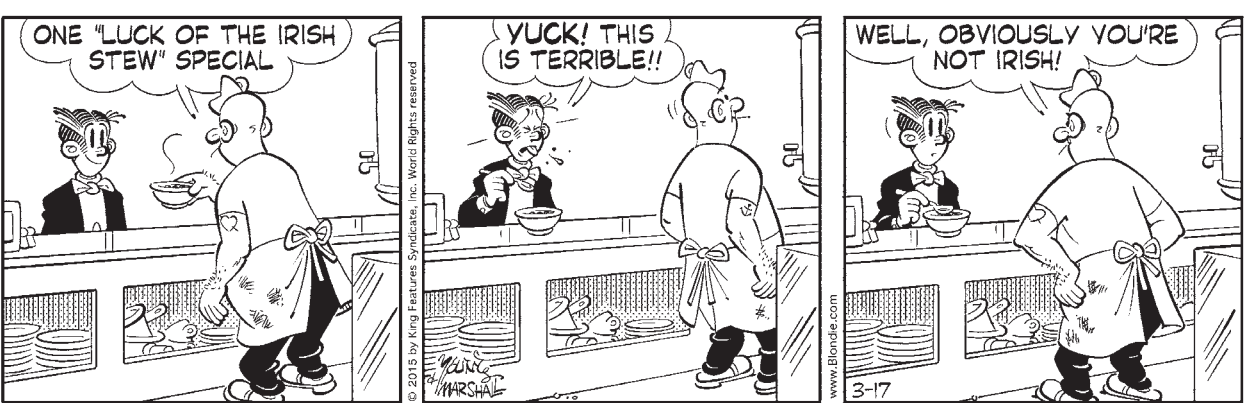
Mutts



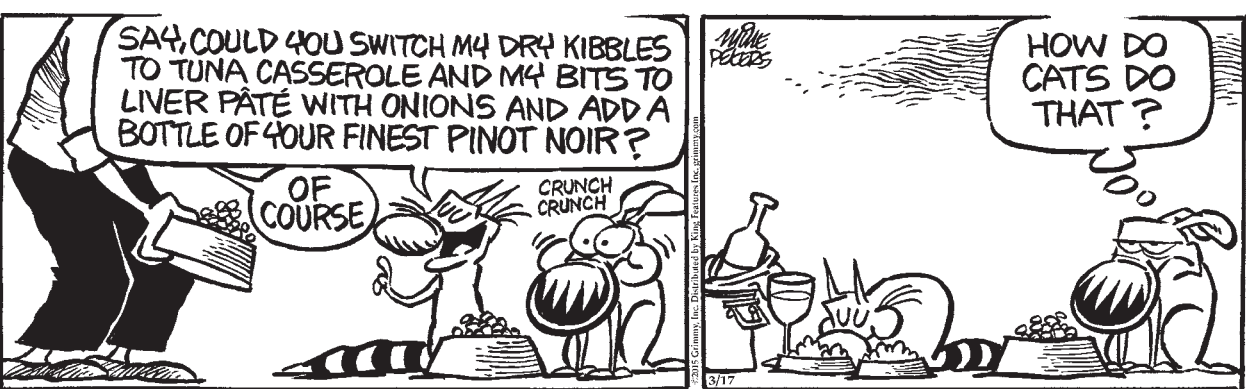
6 Chix



Blondie



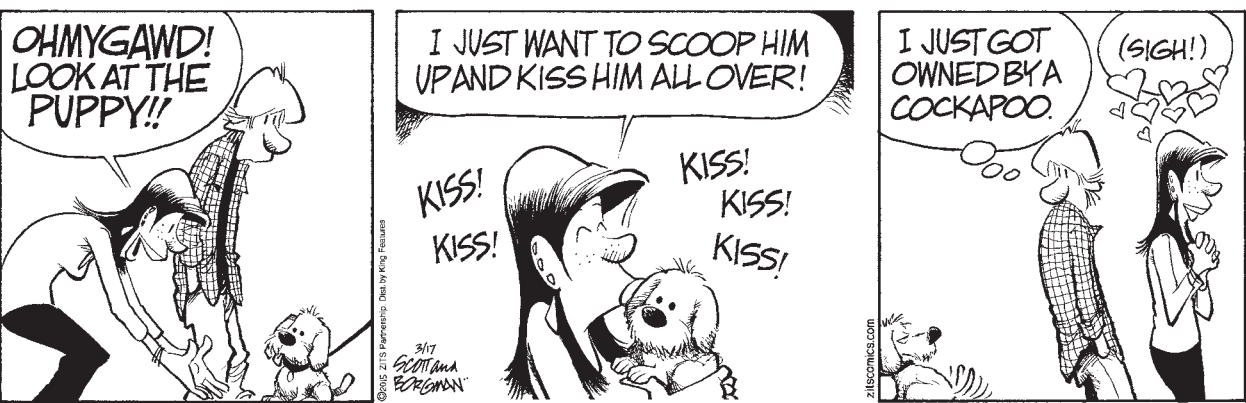
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		2		1		3		
			7	2	8			
4								1
	5			9			6	
9	2		4		6		3	5
	3			7			8	
8								2
			9	6	3			
		6		5		9		

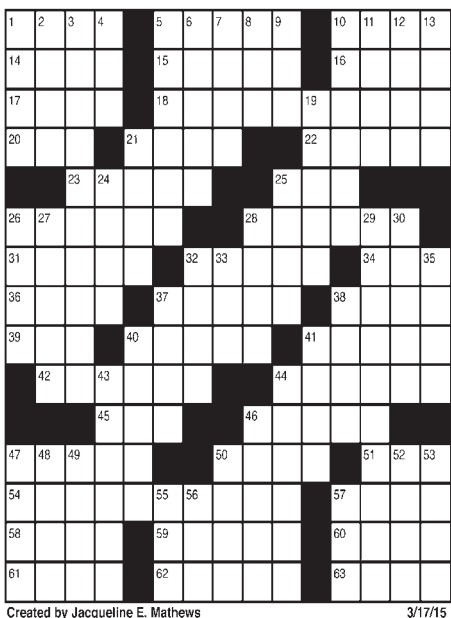
Difficulty Level ★★ 3/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	7	9	1	5	6	4	2	3
4	5	2	9	7	3	8	6	1
3	1	6	4	8	2	9	7	5
1	3	8	6	9	5	7	4	2
6	2	4	8	3	7	5	1	9
5	9	7	2	1	4	6	3	8
9	6	3	5	4	1	2	8	7
7	4	5	3	2	8	1	9	6
2	8	1	7	6	9	3	5	4

- ACROSS
- 1 Rubber __; thin stretchy loop
 - 5 __ up; supports
 - 10 Bench board
 - 14 Not up yet
 - 15 __ gun; traffic cop's device
 - 16 Saga
 - 17 Depressed
 - 18 Exaggerates
 - 20 However
 - 21 Imitates
 - 22 Vote into office
 - 23 Gets furious
 - 25 Coolidge, to friends
 - 26 Take a trip
 - 28 Talks back
 - 31 Lubricated
 - 32 Sphere of the world
 - 34 " __ lazy river by the old..."
 - 36 "It is what __"
 - 37 Shines
 - 38 Sign of a past surgery
 - 39 Permit
 - 40 Punctures
 - 41 Mass of bees
 - 42 Circulatory or respiratory
 - 44 Celery pieces
 - 45 2000 pounds
 - 46 Full of childish complaints
 - 47 Church table
 - 50 Fly high
 - 51 __ Beta Kappa
 - 54 Necessary fix
 - 57 Oscar hopeful
 - 58 Head covering
 - 59 Have children, in biblical terms
 - 60 Juvenile delinquent
 - 61 TV show award
 - 62 Koufax or Duncan
 - 63 __ for; requests



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/17/15

Monday's Puzzle Solved

POI		AF	OU		DA	
IN	NS	GO	OSE		AV	ON
PE	CK	RA	ZES		NE	RD
		SH	AME	LESS	UR	NS
		TE	ES		EB	
AB	BE	SS		CO	NC	EIVE
SE	AR	S		LO	VE	D
CA	SS		OI	LE	D	BALD
OC	T		AR	MO	R	TAHOE
TH	ES	PI	AN		RE	CORD
		LE	G		LE	AK
SO	DA			IM	ME	NSITY
AB	UT		NA	IV	E	NOON
GE	NE		AG	NE	W	GAGA
EY	ED		LI	KE	S	DIP

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- DOWN
- 1 Infant
 - 2 Competent
 - 3 Nonpartisan position
 - 4 Ike's initials
 - 5 Give power to move forward
 - 6 Rants and __; carries on
 - 7 Some poems by Wordsworth
 - 8 Not up to __; below standard
 - 9 Yrbk. section
 - 10 Delays
 - 11 Overdue
 - 12 Actor Baldwin
 - 13 SAT, for one
 - 19 Josh with
 - 21 Elderly
 - 24 Pennsylvania and Fifth: abbr.
 - 25 Taxis
 - 26 Labor
 - 27 Ceremonies
 - 28 Mother pigs
 - 29 __ leaves; koala's lunch
 - 30 __ plugs; engine starters
 - 32 Long-faced
 - 33 Cabin wall piece
 - 35 Weapons
 - 37 Secluded valley
 - 38 White waterbird
 - 40 Market
 - 41 __-crazy; tired of confinement
 - 43 __-eyed; idealistic
 - 44 Hovel
 - 46 Courted
 - 47 Prolonged pain
 - 48 Rich soil
 - 49 Brief haircut
 - 50 Omen
 - 52 Actor Azaria
 - 53 Annoys
 - 55 NBC rival
 - 56 Actress Leoni
 - 57 Jacuzzi

Classifieds

**DOCTOR
ON DUTY**
Oranjestad
Dr. Gonzalez -Diaz

EMERGENCIA 911



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

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San Nicolas: Aloe Tel: 584-4606

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

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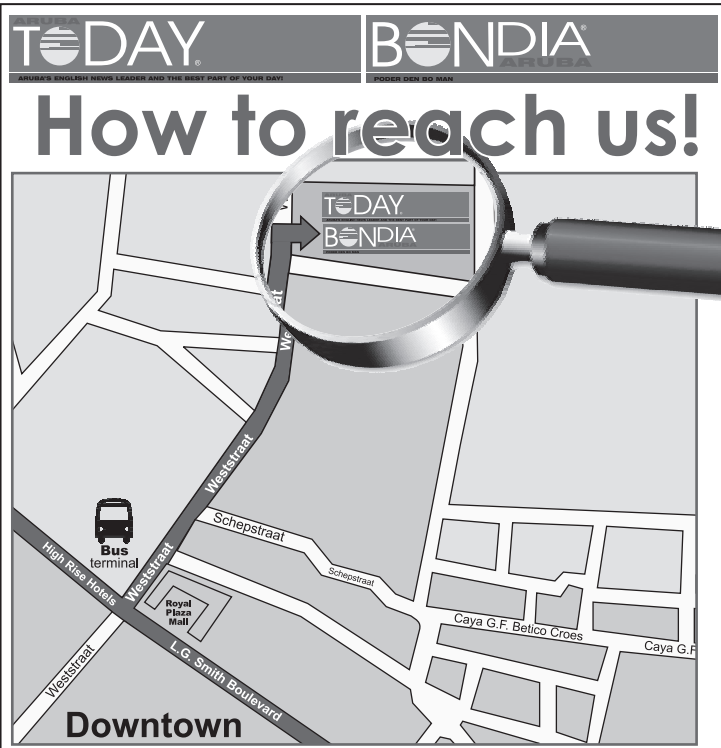


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Starving sea lion pups stranding on California beaches

GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press

LAGUNA BEACH, California (AP) —

The starving sea lion pup was so tiny that it looked like a rock at the base of the seaside cliff until it struggled to raise its head as humans approached.

It bleated weakly as volunteer Brennan Slavik eased it into a crate for transport to a rescue center, where it peered from a child's playpen with woeful eyes made enormous by an emaciated frame.

At almost a year, the pup weighed just 23 pounds (10 kilograms) — a third of what it should — and staff quietly took it to a private room, euthanized it and moved on.

It's a scenario playing out daily in California this year as rescue centers struggle to keep up with hundreds of sick and starving sea lion pups washing up along the coast. More than 1,100 pups have been rescued since January from beaches, but also from inside public restrooms, behind buildings and along railroad tracks.

It's not unusual to have some sea lions wash up each spring as the pups leave their mothers, but so far, the number of stranded babies is five times greater than in 2013, the worst season in recent memory.

"These animals are coming in really desperate. They're



Rescued sea lions rest in a pen at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, Monday, March 2, 2015, in Laguna Beach, Calif.

at the end of life. They're in a crisis ... and not all animals are going to make it," said Keith A. Matassa, executive director at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, which is currently rehabilitating 115 sea lion pups. The situation is so bad that Sea World suspended its sea lion show so it can focus on rescue efforts. The theme park has treated 400 pups — more than twice the number it would care for in a typical year — and constructed two tempo-

rary pools to house them. Scientists aren't sure what's causing the crisis, but suspect that warmer waters from this winter's mild El Nino weather pattern are impacting the sea lion birthing grounds along the Channel Islands off the Southern California coast. The warm water is likely pushing prime sea lion foods — market squid, sardines and anchovies — further north, forcing the mothers to abandon their pups for up to eight days

at a time in search of sustenance.

The pups, scientists believe, are weaning themselves early out of desperation and setting out on their own despite being underweight and ill-prepared to hunt.

Sea lions wouldn't normally start showing up in large numbers until April or May but this year, rescue centers began to get calls in December, said Matassa. For rescue centers like the one in Laguna Beach, that

translates into round-the-clock, back-breaking work for dozens of volunteers who've arrived from all over the U.S. to help.

The center in one of Southern California's premiere beach communities has rescued more than 213 pups since the beginning of the year and has treated ones that weighed as little as 14 pounds (6 kilograms) at eight months old. On a recent day, in the course of two hours, five suffering animals came into the Pacific Marine Mammal Center.

Harried volunteers moved urgently along a narrow hallway between pens as they unloaded each one, wrapped it in a towel and performed a battery of tests. Most of the animals were so weak they barely resisted.

Those that make the cut are tube-fed a gruel of pureed herring, Pedialyte, vitamins and milk three or four times a day after starting out with a simple broth of hydrating fluids and dextrose.

Those that graduate to whole fish are playfully called "feeders" and those that can once more compete for fish tossed into a pool are called "fighters."

The goal is to get the pups strong enough to swim free again — but the volunteers who nurse them back to health may never know if they make it in the wild. □

Associated Press

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Molly Ringwald, left, and Ally Sheedy walk the red carpet for "The Breakfast Club" 30th Anniversary Restoration World Premiere during the South by Southwest Film Festival on Monday, March 16, 2015 in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

'Breakfast Club' cast members attend anniversary screening

EVA RUTH MORAVEC

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Actresses Molly Ringwald and Ally Sheedy have reminisced about making "The Breakfast Club" at a screening of the fully-restored iconic 1985 film. A table stacked high with glazed doughnuts greeted attendees to Monday's screening at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas. Ringwald and Sheedy conducted a question-and-answer session. The re-mastered film's release comes 30 years after

the original production. It hits theaters March 26.

The film chronicles five high school students in Saturday detention. Played by Ringwald, Sheedy, Emilio Estevez, Anthony Michael Hall and Judd Nelson, they aren't all initially friends, but become close by day's end.

It also features the Simple Minds hit "Don't You (Forget About Me)."

Ringwald said the movie's message, that "we are all outsiders and everyone feels alone," still rings true. □

Betty White to get Daytime Emmy lifetime achievement award

NEW YORK (AP) — Show-biz sweetheart Betty White is about to get another dose of love, this time from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The 93-year-old will be honored with this year's lifetime achievement award next month at the 42nd Annual Daytime Emmy Awards. In the 1960s, White was a frequent contestant on "Password," where she met and subsequently wed its host, Allen Ludden. She also appeared on "The Match Game" and "The \$25,000 Pyramid."

She was the first woman to receive an Emmy Award for outstanding game-show host for the show "Just Men." And she had a recurring role on "The Bold and the Beautiful" from



In this Feb. 15, 2015 file photo, Betty White attends the SNL 40th Anniversary Special at Rockefeller Plaza in New York.

Associated Press

2006 to 2009.

Previous honorees include Oprah Winfrey, Barbara Walters and Regis Philbin. The Daytime Emmys will air April 26 on the Pop network. □

Sean Penn says he is not the next Liam Neeson



In this Feb. 16, 2015 file photo, actors Sean Penn, right, and Charlize Theron arrive for the World Premiere of "The Gunman" at the BFI south bank cinema, in London.

Associated Press

LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sean Penn surfs, shoots, sprints, punches and fights for his life in the geopolitical thriller "The Gunman." At age 54, it's easy to assume that Penn, as a rogue ex-special forces officer, is drifting into territory that Liam Neeson claimed just a few years ago with a series of action-heavy box office hits.

Add in the fact that "The Gunman," in theaters Friday, is directed by Pierre Morel, who launched the "Taken" franchise and Neeson's renaissance and the comparisons seem even more apt.

But for Penn, it couldn't be further from the truth.

"I think Liam Neeson is fantastic. I love Liam Neeson. But he's a 6-foot-4, melodically voiced, masculine figure who is a very good man who's only there to take care of the people he loves," said Penn on a recent afternoon in the Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles. "I am a 5-foot-9, highly conflicted man who's principally taking care of himself." Penn is even a little baffled about the cultural

focus on Neeson in this case.

"I'm aware of the framing in the culture, but has nobody noticed Harrison Ford all of those years? There've been a lot of "geri-action" heroes," he added.

In showing extreme situations, whether it's Jason Bourne taking down secret government operations or John McClane defying the odds to defeat a terrorist and save some hostages, action films can sometimes feel more disconnected from reality than sci-fi. That's, of course, part of the fun for actors and audiences alike.

Penn, however, was drawn to "The Gunman" and the character of Jim Terrier for exactly the opposite reason — it reminded him of people he knew.

Loosely based on Jean-Patrick Manchette's novel "The Prone Gunman," a 1981 French noir about a mercenary assassin, writers Peter Travis and Don MacPherson reworked the story to have a contemporary setting. Not only did Penn jump at the chance to bring on some of his friends as consultants, he

also took some time to focus and refine the bones of the script, taking what he knows about NGOs and military tactics and applying it to the story. In the film, audiences meet Penn's character in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2006. A sniper-for-hire, Terrier draws the short straw and gets tasked with assassinating a mining minister, which propels the country into a devastating civil war. Eight years later, while digging wells for an NGO in the Congo, he discovers that there's a hit out for him and sets out across Europe to find out why. Encountering his own demons (PTSD) and some of his old ex-military colleagues (Mark Rylance and Javier Bardem) who've sold out their skills for high-powered jobs at shadowy international organizations along the way, Penn notes that though there are real world parallels in "The Gunman," that it's not meant to be a political movie. "I don't think there's an enormous amount to be learned politically," said Penn. The movie, for him, is about the consequences of violence. □

AP Exclusive: 'Heather Has Two Mommies' revised, updated

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A playful picture book about a little girl named Heather and her two happy mommies was a cultural and legal flash-point 25 years ago, angering conservatives over the morality of same-sex parenting and landing libraries at the center of community battles over placement in the children's stacks.

Today, Heather — of "Heather Has Two Mommies" — has a lot more company in books for young kids about different kinds of families, but hers was out of print and seemed visually dated. That's why creator Leslea Newman decided on a new version, updating the look of her watershed story with fresh illustrations from a new artist and tweaking the text to streamline.

There's one big change, but you have to squint to notice: Heather's Mama Kate and Mama Jane wear little matching rings on their marriage fingers.

"I don't specifically say that they're married but they are," Newman explained from her home just outside Northampton, Massachusetts. "I don't know where I could have smoothly inserted that into the text. That's not what the story is about. The story is really about Heather."

Heather was Newman's first picture book and is certainly her most well-known. The latest edition, out this month, is from Candlewick Press, with illustrations by Laura Cornell replacing those of Diana Souza.

Newman wrote the story in 1988 after a chance encounter in Northampton with Amy Jacobson, a lesbian mom who was looking for reading material that better reflected her life with her partner — now wife — and their young daughter — now grown.

"Every step I was educating people about our family because there was nothing else," recalled Jacobson. "If I hadn't done it somebody else would have found an author. The book needed to happen."

Newman, a full-time writer and poet at the time, chronicles Heather's love of all things "two," including her moms, one a doctor and the other a carpenter. When Heather joins a home-based play group — changed to "school" in the new version — she is saddened when teacher Molly reads the children a story at nap time focused on a daddy.

As the children chime in with their fathers' occupations, Heather bemoans, "I don't have a daddy," when asked what hers does for a living. The original story has her tearing up as she wonders if any other family looks like hers. The update has the children chiming in with the work of their mommies AND daddies, and it eliminates Heather's tears. The process of getting Heather published in 1989 was a slow one.

"After I wrote the book I sent it to many, many publishers. Small presses, large presses. Children's book presses told me to try lesbian presses. Lesbian presses told me to try children's book presses. Nobody was really interested," Newman said.

There were about 50 turn-downs. That's why she co-published the book with a friend who had a desktop printing business. The two found an illustrator and financed the endeavor mostly from \$10 donations, promising each contributor a copy from the 4,000 they printed up.

Soon, writer and businessman Sasha Alyson came knocking. He had just put out another picture book, "Daddy's Roommate," about a divorced father who lives with his same-sex partner, when he spotted Heather in a Cambridge, Massachusetts, bookshop and offered to take it on. Heather quickly took off and the repercussions — for both Newman's book and "Daddy's Roommate" by Michael Willhoite — were big.

Opposition to the books in New York City, primarily among members of one local school board in



In this Wednesday, March 11, 2015 photo, author Leslea Newman, of Holyoke, Mass., displays a copy of her book "Heather Has Two Mommies," in Holyoke.

Associated Press

Queens, contributed to the downfall of schools Chancellor Joseph Fernandez. He had defended them as optional reading for elementary school classrooms in a broader "Children of the Rainbow" curriculum intended to encourage teachers to better embrace diversity.

Both books landed at the center of a federal court battle in Wichita Falls, Texas, after Dr. Robert Jeffress, pastor of the First Baptist Church, waved them around during a sermon on "Sodom and Gomorrah" and blasted them as anti-God and unsuitable for children. He and other opponents took to checking the books out of the local library without return, only to have supporters drop off new copies for loan. The City Council, on a 4-3 vote, decided to take the issue to those with valid library cards, allowing for 300 to demand the books be moved from the children's section to an adult shelf. A judge deemed the effort

unconstitutional and the city didn't appeal.

Lead attorney for Heather and her supporters, John Horany, had a personal injury practice in Dallas but signed on to work with the ACLU to defend the books on constitutional grounds after an old friend told him of the controversy in Wichita Falls, where he grew up, heading to the library to stay cool during sultry summer days.

"He said your hometown is about to be the laughing-stock of Western civilization," Horany said.

That barely touches the trouble encountered by "Heather Has Two Mommies" in hot spots around the country. Newman said it was banned, burned and even defecated upon by a library patron in Ohio. It was among the nation's most challenged books in libraries for a good part of the '90s.

"It's the book that brought to the forefront the issues, the conflicts, over what materials concerning GLBT

identity, lifestyles should be available to young kids," said Deborah Caldwell-Stone, deputy director for the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom in Chicago. "It was a time when we were really first acknowledging what we call the culture wars now, and the idea that there would be books actually acknowledging that families headed by same-sex parents existed." In 1992, the town of Fayetteville, North Carolina, was divided on whether Heather should remain in the public library. Opponents nearly defeated an \$11.4 million bond issue to build five new library branches, running a newspaper ad that declared: "Cumberland County Library takes the lead in pursuit of legitimizing homosexuality. Can prostitution, bestiality or incest be far behind?"

The referendum passed by a slim 316 votes.

"It's been a long 25 years," Newman laughed. □

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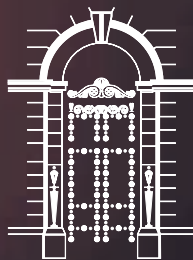
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